

Iraqis destroy '3 naval targets'

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its navy and helicopter gunships Sunday attacked and destroyed "three enemy naval targets" at the northern tip of the Gulf in its war with Iran. A military communique said the "three targets," which had been among "several naval targets" trying to enter the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini, were destroyed in a six-minute attack. It said the rest of the targets, which were not otherwise identified, "fled in panic trying to avoid the fire of our navy force which proved its full control over the prohibited zone." All Iraqi helicopters and naval units returned safely to base, the communique said.

Happy 'Eid

AMMAN — The chief Islamic justice Sunday announced that Sunday was the last day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, and therefore today will be the beginning of Shawwal and the first day of 'Eid Al Fitr. On this occasion, the Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a very happy 'Eid. The newspaper will not be published on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The next issue of the Jordan Times will appear on Saturday, July 16.

'Eid Mubarak

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Bomb explodes in South Lebanon

SIDON (R) — A bomb exploded Sunday near the southern Lebanese town of Nabatiyah, causing some damage, Lebanese security sources said. Israeli forces set up roadblocks and conducted searches. Residents said the road where the bomb went off was regularly used by Israeli convoys.

Shamir opposes German tanks sales to Saudis

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir criticised West Germany Sunday for preparing to sell tanks to Saudi Arabia. "It is inconceivable that the German government will take this step that will gravely endanger Israeli security," he told a West German reporter. The sale of Leopard II tanks is expected to be discussed when West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl visits Israel in September. Mr. Shamir rejected suggestions that West Germany might compensate Israel by offering it arms too, saying: "We will not accept any compensation deal whatsoever."

Paris formally notified of consulate closure

PARIS (R) — Iran Sunday officially informed Paris that it was closing France's consulate in Isfahan and cultural institute in Tehran, a French External Relations Ministry spokesman said. He said there would be no official reaction to the move until further information had been received. Iran said Saturday it was closing the consulate and language teaching institute in retaliation for what it said was French involvement in the hijack of an Iranian aircraft last week. (Franco-Iranian ties worsen, page 2)

3 French climbers killed on Matterhorn

ZERMATT, Switzerland (R) — Three French mountaineers were killed when they fell 300 metres from the east face of the Matterhorn Saturday evening, police said Sunday. Rescuers recovered the bodies and took them to Zermatt. Police declined to give identities or addresses until next of kin were informed. The east face of the 4,477-metre Matterhorn is hard to climb at present due to varying ice and snow conditions. Local guides said. Hot weather over the past week has begun melting the unusually deep covering of snow the Alps received in May.

Controversial IRA rally held in Ireland

MULLAGHMORE (R) — A controversial "rally" to commemorate the deaths of Bobby Sands and nine other republican hunger strikers went ahead in this tiny seaside village Sunday despite fierce opposition from the Irish government. The rally, attended by 1,000 people, was held near the spot where the Irish Republican Army (IRA) killed Britain's Lord Mountbatten and three others in 1979. The Dublin government last week condemned the idea as "grossly offensive" and local traders showed their feelings by closing down their shops and bars Sunday.

To our readers...

The Jordan Times regrets that it is appearing in six pages only. This is due to technical problems beyond our control.

Hebron remains under curfew as Israelis stress 'right' to set up more settlements

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron, whose central market was set ablaze during a rampage by Jewish settlers following the death of a fellow settler last Thursday, was under curfew for the third successive day Sunday.

The curfew was imposed by the occupation authorities following violent demonstrations by Palestinians who were protesting against the dismissal of the town's municipal council headed by Acting Mayor Mustafa Al Natche. The occupation authorities, in dismissing the town council, charged that Mr. Natche encouraged Palestinian attacks against Jewish settlers.

Last Wednesday, a Jewish student was killed by three unidentified men in Hebron's central marketplace. Armed settlers went on a rampage Thursday, setting fire to the market's stalls and smashing Arab-owned vehicles. The Israeli cabinet Sunday approved the dismissal of Mr. Natche and the town council. Interior Minister Yosef Burg said Jewish settlement of the centre of Hebron will continue. "The right of Jews to live in Hebron is for me as a person above discussion," he said. A senior Israeli official said the government remained committed to rebuilding the town's old Jewish quarter.

Cabinet spokesman Dan Meridor said: "As long as Arabs believe that by murder they can drive us away from Hebron, they have a motive. Jews are going to live in Hebron and in all parts of Erez Yisrael." The opposition Labour Party issued a statement opposing Jewish settlement in the heart of Hebron.

Mr. Meridor said security forces were still searching for the killers and for Jewish settlers who burned market stalls.

"Both are acts which should be condemned, but they do not have equal weight," another Israeli official said.

Saudi envoy begins new mediation efforts in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — A Saudi Minister met Syrian President Hafiz Al Assad Sunday, apparently in a fresh attempt to mediate in the dispute over Yasser Arafat's leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Education Minister Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah Al Khawater gave Mr. Assad a message from King Fahd, the official Syrian News Agency SANA reported.

It gave no details of the message or of talks between Mr. Assad and the Saudi envoy.

Mr. Khawater visited Syria on July 1 with two Algerian envoys for talks with Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam in what the Saudis said was a bid to heal the two-month-old rift in Mr. Arafat's Fatah guerrilla group. The team did not meet Mr. Assad then, and there were no apparent results from the visit.

Mr. Arafat was expelled from Syria last month after accusing Damascus of supporting the rebellion against his leadership. Syria denies the charge, and says it is up to Mr. Arafat to resolve the dispute among his own followers.

In tandem with the Saudi mediation bid, a six-man team from the PLO Executive Committee is in Damascus trying to reconcile Mr. Arafat with the dissidents, who are based in Syrian-controlled areas of eastern Lebanon.

But informed Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat told the team he was insisting on a normalisation of ties with Syria before discussing the rebels' demands.

The team has told both the dissidents and Foreign Minister Khaddam of the PLO chairman's stance, the sources said.

The team's leader, Khaled Al Fahoum, is preparing for a visit this week to Moscow, where Mr. Arafat himself is expected to go, PLO sources in Tunis, Mr. Arafat's base since he was forced to leave Syria, say. Mr. Arafat is counting on the Soviet Union to use its influence with Syria to end the mutiny.

Two killed as rival Sikh groups clash in North India

NEW DELHI (R) — Two people died in an exchange of fire in the north Indian city of Chandigarh Sunday when rival Sikh groups clashed over control of a temple. The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said.

Chandigarh police said the dead were members of a Sikh sect known as Nihangs who guard Sikh temples and traditionally carry swords or spears. Thirty-one Nihangs were arrested on various charges including murder, rioting and possession of illegal weapons, police added. The clash coincides with heightened tension in the north Indian state of Punjab where Sikh militants are pressing a series of religious and political demands.

The state has been hit by a series of bomb attacks and armed clashes which police say are the result of Sikh extremist activity. On Saturday, militant Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal accused the government of stirring up trouble between Sikhs and Hindus in the Punjab and the neighbouring state of Haryana. He appealed to the two religious communities, saying "brother should not fight against brother."

Lebanese army soldiers, with a French-made tank, Sunday take over a military position evacuated by Israeli troops near Monteveerde, east of Beirut (A.P. wirephoto)

Junblatt reiterates rejection of pact, warns against army deployment in Shouf

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, Sunday reiterated his party's total rejection of the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal agreement and warned against any deployment of the Lebanese army in the Shouf mountains to replace Israeli troops as part of a partial withdrawal. He also said that an Israeli redeployment of forces, if carried out, would necessarily mean the partitioning of Lebanon. "I am sure that their (the Lebanese army) only task would be the disarming of the Druze, the Socialist Party and helping the Falangists to control these areas," he said.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Junblatt said that the only alternative (for a strong and independent Lebanon) would be a national reconciliation, a political solution which means in Lebanon "the sharing of power and responsibilities of all the Lebanese parties."

Mr. Junblatt said he is not in favour of deploying the Multi-National Force (MNF) in the strife-torn mountains. Should the Israelis withdraw to other lines, "I'm not in favour of such a move because after the siege of Beirut there has not been any



Walid Junblatt

MNF contacts with the citizens in Beirut. We need guarantees. There is a basic need for a political solution, not a military one."

Mr. Junblatt pointed out that he cannot see any Israeli withdrawal in the near future "because it is directly linked to the situation in the West Bank. When the Israelis finish with their colonisation of the West Bank, then they might withdraw from Lebanon," he said.

He added that it was wrong to use the term "withdraw" with the Israelis. "The Israelis are using another term which is 'redeployment.' By that they mean

shortening their communication lines, militarily speaking, and to avoid military clashes with the national resistance."

Commenting on the rebellion in Fatah, he said any division of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is very bad but at the same time "I do support calls for basic reforms in Fatah, and I do support calls for a clear-cut policy for the organisation." Asked in comment on reports that the Syrians are striving to drive Palestinian forces away from the front lines with Israel, to avoid a Syrian-Israeli military confrontation, Mr. Junblatt said: "From a military point of view, Syria is entitled to choose the time for a confrontation with Israel. It cannot be dragged to do so, for it is not an easy problem."

On his relations with the Lebanese government, Mr. Junblatt said there has not been any "fruitful" or "positive" dialogue and "I hope we will achieve this one day." He added that if President Amin Gemayel does not accept political solutions and is determined to "fight" the Druze party then "we are willing to fight the Lebanese army endlessly."

"Lebanon is a pluralistic society and the Lebanese government has to reconsider the distribution of parliamentary seats for the sake of the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon," Mr. Junblatt said.

'Soviets view Fatah revolt serving U.S. interests'

KUWAIT (R) — A Palestinian official was quoted Sunday as saying the Soviet Union regarded dissidents in Yasser Arafat's Fatah commando group as serving U.S. interests.

"The Soviet Union considers the action of the (Fatah) dissidents as serving American schemes," Mahmoud Abbas, a senior Fatah official, told the Kuwaiti daily Al Anba.

Mr. Abbas, in Kuwait with a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) team which is expected to go on to Moscow, said in an interview the Soviet Union did not intend to have a dialogue with the dissidents.

In Moscow, the team is expected to prepare for a visit there this week by Mr. Arafat, the PLO chairman whose Fatah group has been split by hardliners seeking a tougher stance against Israel and changes in the Fatah leadership.

The Soviet Union has called for PLO unity since the mutiny erupted after Israel and Lebanon signed a U.S.-backed pact on May 17.

U.K. police probe fake art scandal

LONDON (R) — British police are investigating an art scandal which, according to one newspaper, involved dozens of fake modern paintings and money amounting to millions of sterling. The Sunday Times quoted detectives as saying the case was the biggest of its kind they had ever handled. Fake paintings had found their way to leading auction houses, London's Tate Gallery and international art dealers, the paper said.

Habre forces reportedly launch counter-attack

NDJAMENA (R) — The government of Chadian President Hissene Habre, keeping silent on reports that the key eastern city of Abeche had fallen to rebel forces, has launched its first counter-attack, informed sources said Sunday.

They said government troops went into action on two fronts Saturday around Abeche and Oum-Chalouba, the northeastern town captured by the Libyan-backed forces of Goukouni Oueddei last week.

The pincer movement was aimed at cutting rebel supply lines to Abeche, which lies 700 kilometres east of N'djamena, the sources said.

The government has not confirmed the fall of Abeche. But French journalists and doctors in Abeche Sunday reported that the rebels were in control.

If Mr. Habre's reported counter-attack—the first since the fighting erupted in earnest on June 23—is unsuccessful, little now stands in Mr. Goukouni's way as he presses on to the capital.

A good road leads from N'djamena to Abeche and government troops would probably regroup to defend the midway town of Ati if they retreat from Abeche.

Mr. Habre would be cut off from supplies from Sudan, one of his closest allies, if Abeche stayed in Mr. Goukouni's hands. This would make Mr. Habre entirely dependent on airlifts of weapons to N'djamena and ferries across the Chari River border with Cameroon.

Meanwhile, French Television reported that an evacuation plan for the French community has been prepared for implementation if the situation deteriorates.

A Paris-based spokesman for the Habre forces Sunday refused to confirm or deny the reports of the fall of Abeche.

Jordan, Islamic World start 'Eid celebrations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, along with Arab and Islamic nations, Monday celebrates 'Eid Al Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

An official statement on the occasion said that "in view of the current situation" in the Arab World, only religious rites will be held to mark the 'Eid.

On Saturday, a meeting was held at the office of the Islamic chief justice, Sheikh Ibrahim Qattan, and it was announced that Sunday, July 10, was the last day of Ramadan and therefore Monday will mark the first day of the Muslim month of Shawwal and the start of 'Eid Al Fitr.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif, Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Interior Ministry Under-Secretary Ahmad Al 'Aqileh, Ministry of Awqaf Under-Secretary Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, Amman Governor Yahya Al Mousili, and Amman Police Director Faleh Al Gharraibeh.

Sheikh Qattan's announcement on 'Eid Al Fitr included greetings to His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian and Arab people.

An official announcement from the Prime Ministry had earlier announced that all public and private institutions and government departments will be closed from Sunday, July 10, until Saturday morning, July 16. Normal work will resume on Saturday.

Prayers will be held at mosques throughout the country to mark the occasion.

Other Islamic states start a public holiday of varying length for the 'Eid Al Fitr feast.

During 'Eid Al Fitr, one of the two main holiday celebrations in the Islamic World, believers attend mosque prayers, exchange greetings and visits and traditionally provide food for the poor as well as feasting themselves.

Offices close for the festival, which officially starts with the sighting of the new moon.

Syria is ahead of other Arab states as its four-day holiday started Sunday. But the faithful still fasted through the day as the beginning of the new lunar month was not confirmed Saturday night.

Elsewhere, the holiday starts Monday, except for Iran where the festival and public holiday is being held on Tuesday only.

Bahrain has a three-day official holiday, while the other Gulf states — Saudi Arabia, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait — celebrate for four days.

Saudi Arabian television will provide live coverage via satellite of prayers from the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

Lebanon's two-day official holiday, also starting Monday, will open with mass prayers at dawn at Beirut's Sports Stadium with religious leaders of Sunni, Shiite and Druze Muslims present.

In Egypt, government offices close for four days while other public and private businesses take a two-day holiday. President Hosni Mubarak will perform dawn prayers at Al Hussein Mosque in Cairo.

Iraq celebrates a three-day holiday for the festival.

Jailed Chilean politician's family appeals to U.N.

SANTIAGO (R) — The family of former Chilean Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes, whom a judge jailed Saturday, has asked the United Nations secretary-general of help get him freed, informed sources said Sunday.

Mr. Valdes, 64, is Chile's most prominent civilian politician by virtue of being president of the Christian Democratic Party, which like all political parties has been banned since President August Pinochet seized power in a bloody right-wing military coup in 1973.

Judge Arnaldo Drewe ordered Mr. Valdes and two other Christian Democrats into solitary confinement in connection with charges against two young party members arrested last week with about 700,000 leaflets calling for a national day of protest against the government this Tuesday.

The sources said Mr. Valdes' wife Sylvia sent a telegram Saturday night to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar saying: "In view of the detention in solitary confinement which Gabriel has been subjected to, I ask you to intercede for his immediate and unconditional freedom."

The president of the supreme court, Rafael Retamal, told prison officers Saturday night to accept blankets and warm clothes brought for Mr. Valdes by relatives which they had refused to pass on to him in his cell, the sources said.

Mr. Valdes and his colleagues Jorge Lavandero and Jose Gregorio can be held for five days while the judge decides whether to charge them with offences against internal security laws.

"Good prospects (for relations) were clouded by the oncoming threat of a new twist in the arms race in Europe whose consequences were difficult to predict," it said.

"The chancellor acted as if he had never heard of the inevitable negative consequences of the deployment of missiles for relations between our countries."

The Soviet leadership made it clear during Mr. Kohl's visit last week that relations would suffer if the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) carried out its plan to start deploying new U.S. missiles in Europe from December if no agreement is reached at arms talks in Geneva.

The paper was likely to argue that the follow-up meetings agreed upon in Madrid would give the West similar opportunity.

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MIDDLE EAST

PLO in-fighting still continues despite end to armed clashes

By Edmond Khleif
Reuters

DAMASCUS — The fighting between supporters and opponents of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has stopped but the crisis within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) remains unresolved, two months after anti-Arafat commanders in Lebanon rebelled against his policies.

The rebellion broke out in Mr. Arafat's own Fatah guerrilla group, one of eight in the PLO and the organisation's backbone. It has affected the whole organisation and all mediation efforts have failed so far.

Mr. Arafat, at present spending most of his time in Tunis, heads both Fatah and the PLO.

The Fatah rebels, who have received support from two radical PLO factions, are led by Col.



Col. Saeed Musa

NEWS ANALYSIS

Saeed Musa (Abu Musa), who has been replaced as head of Fatah by an interim leadership composed of dissidents and loyalists in equal numbers.

The interim body would run Fatah affairs until a new congress is organised, substituting itself for the existing Fatah central committee and revolutionary council where pro-Arafat members are in a majority.

Palestinian sources in Damascus say Mr. Arafat has opposed this and other demands, which include an unequivocal rejection of all current Middle East peace efforts.

However, the sources said dissidents were not ready to reconsider the demand for interim leadership if Mr. Arafat agreed to the other demands.

Dissidents' demand

The dissidents, led by Nimir

Salah, also known as Abu Salah, are advocating all-out armed struggle against Israel.

They want Mr. Arafat to reject the Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal accord, President Reagan's proposals for a Middle East settlement and a rival Arab summit peace plan announced last year.

Mr. Arafat, who was forced out of his Beirut stronghold along with thousands of Palestinian fighters by Israeli invasion troops last summer, has denounced the U.S.-sponsored withdrawal accord in a statement issued by the PLO executive committee.

Dissidents now accuse Mr. Arafat of planning to pull his forces out of Lebanon but he says he is only considering moving men from the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon to Tripoli in the north of the country, to avoid further fighting in the Bekaa.

Mr. Arafat has backed out of talks with Jordan aimed at establishing a joint negotiating position over the Reagan proposals. These envisaged Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

Another setback

Palestinian sources neutral in the current Fatah rift said Mr. Arafat and the PLO were also likely to be forced to reject the Arab League plan which calls for a Palestinian state in the occupied territories.

The plan, rejected by Israel, was unanimously approved by the Arab summit, including the PLO, whose delegation was led by Mr. Arafat, and later endorsed by the Palestine National Council (PNC) or parliament in exile.

The hardline Fatah dissidents want Mr. Arafat and the PLO to end all contacts with Jordan and Egypt, the latter because of its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, and all contact with Israeli organisations and individuals.

The PLO has had contacts with Israeli communists, leftists and other groups backing an independent Palestinian state.

Another demand made by the dissidents and backed by all Palestinian groups is that the PLO should have a collective leadership as opposed to what Mr. Arafat's opponents call his one-man leadership.

The sources said Mr. Arafat had rejected the proposal and instead suggested a neutral commander from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), but the PFLP rejected this.

They said the peace team was proposing that all the appointments which sparked the mutiny should be cancelled.

They also want two dissidents reinstated on the Fatah central committee, which runs the guerrilla group.

The sources said Mr. Arafat had

told the peace team that normalisation of relations between Syria and the PLO should come first and would promote solutions to differences within the Palestinian movement.

Mr. Arafat was expelled from Syria on June 24 after he accused Syrian authorities of backing the dissidents. Syria denied the charge, saying it was only interested in PLO unity and it was up to Mr. Arafat to settle disputes inside his own command group.

Meanwhile, dissidents have continued claiming that more Fatah fighters are joining their ranks.

Number uncertain

There are some 4,000 Palestinian guerrillas in east and north Lebanon. The dissidents are believed to be a small minority but no reliable figures are available.

Many Palestinian fighters were dispersed in Syria and other Arab states after being evacuated from Beirut last year.

The PLO is run by a 15-member executive committee but his opponents have often accused Mr. Arafat of acting without prior consultations.

They want Palestinian military and other officials recently sacked by Mr. Arafat to be reinstated.

Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat had agreed to what the dissidents call democratic reforms in the PLO.

A PLO mediation mission, set up by the executive committee last week, has been shuttling between Tunis and Damascus trying to heal the Fatah rift and normalise relations with Syria.

Apart from achieving a ceasefire between Fatah warring factions in the Bekaa, the mission has failed to do much about other issues.

The six-man mediation team, which returned to Damascus from Tunis on Thursday, told the rebels and Syrians that Mr. Arafat had rejected three proposals which the team had worked out.

Iraq seeks new outlets for oil

By Subhy Haddad
Reuters

BAGHDAD — The huge financial burden of Iraq's war with Iran has forced the Baghdad government to seek new ways to export its oil after the conflict closed outlets through Syria and the Gulf.

Once the world's second largest oil exporter, Iraq now finds that its current oil revenue barely covers its war expenses, which are estimated by Western sources at \$1 billion a month.

Its Gulf terminals were forced to close when the war began 34 months ago. Then in April last year Syria shut a pipeline carrying Iraqi oil through its territory to the Mediterranean. The pipeline had a daily capacity of 1.4 million barrels.

The move by Syria, which backs Iran in the conflict, has left Iraq with only one outlet to world markets—a 980-kilometre pipeline from oilfields at Kirkuk in northern Iraq to Ceyhan on the Turkish Mediterranean coast.

Industry sources say this pipeline carries about 700,000 barrels daily, less than a quarter of Iraq's pre-war exports of about 3.5 million.

Al Thawra, daily newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, said recently that construction had started on a pipeline to the Saudi Arabian Red Sea port of Yanbu, 1,230 kilometres southwest of Baghdad.

Foreign relations

Saudi finance is expected for the \$2 billion project, which Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Tareq Aziz, said in February would take about two years to complete. No details on its capacity have been given.

Mr. Aziz said the project was not a war expedient but a long-term venture to cope with possibly increased Iraqi output, which may even exceed the pre-war level, after the present glut.

As a measure of the faith Iraq is placing in increased oil exports and thus boosting revenue, foreign diplomats in Baghdad said the government has asked foreign firms to defer for two years credits for projects they are undertaking in Iraq.

President Saddam Hussein told a group of foreign reporters in June that Iraq's future relations with all countries would be based on their cooperation with Baghdad while the Gulf war lasted. Foreign diplomats have been told

the same. In April, Iraq borrowed \$120 million from foreign banks to expand the capacity of the pipeline through Turkey to one million barrels per day, according to banking sources. Iraqi economic sources said that level would be reached by next April.

An Iraqi official told Reuters that a pipeline through Jordan to the Mediterranean was also under consideration, but he gave no details.

Iraq, which before the war began an ambitious development programme, has proven oil reserves estimated at 31 billion barrels, the third largest in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

But it also faces a glutted world market, which has forced OPEC to cut output and prices. Diplomats expect some financial help from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to continue, but believe it will be closely tied to the war effort and is unlikely to be on the same scale as the millions of dollars committed so far.

The country's hard currency reserves are believed to be down to between \$6 billion and \$8 billion from more than \$30 billion at the height of the oil boom.

Oman charges 2 Iranian navy officers

BAHRAIN (R) — Two Iranian navy lieutenants have been detained in Oman pending trial on charges of illegal entry after landing their helicopter on a desert strip in the Gulf state, an Omani police spokesman said Sunday.

The officers, identified as Mohammad Hamdi Zouri and Jawadi Ali Ibadi, landed early Saturday at the Al-Fahud oil field near the United Arab Emirates (UAE) border, the spokesman told Reuters in Bahrain by telephone. He gave no other details.

An Iranian helicopter, which made a forced landing at Bahrain's international airport on Thursday night, was asked to leave with its unidentified occupants after refuelling. This was the fourth reported incident in Bahrain in five weeks.

Pakistani journalists said harassed

ISLAMABAD (R) — A local journalists' union said Sunday there had been growing number of incidents recently in which Pakistani journalists had been harassed by security agencies.

The Rawalpindi Union of Journalists said in a statement journalists attending press conferences and meetings of opposition political parties or of local political groups have been rudely waylaid by security men and subjected to unwarranted interrogation in a most unbecoming manner.

No official comment on the charges was immediately available but the statement said the militant government's information secretary, Lt. Gen. Mujibur Rehman, had promised to do his best to end this.

It said in one case three newspaper reporters were "bought" by police officers after a press conference and later detained for an hour. In another case the chief editor of a local newspaper and some other newsmen travelling with him were stopped after a chase and dragged out of their car.

The union, which also represents journalists based in Islamabad, said "this crude and high-handed attitude" must end and journalists should be free to perform their duties with honour and freedom.

Prisoners, police shot

KARACHI (R) — At least 10 unidentified armed men killed two policemen and five prisoners when their vehicle was ambushed near Shikarpur 500 kilometres from here, the government said.

The initial investigation suggested the attack was motivated by revenge on the prisoners for an earlier murder. The prisoners were all awaiting trial when they were killed.

Franco-Iranian ties deteriorate after hijack

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's relations with France, once the exile home of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, have a hit new low following the hijacking to Paris last week of an Iran Air jumbo jet.

Relations between the two countries have been strained because of French support for Iraq in the Gulf war and France's decision to grant asylum to Iranian dissidents, including former President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr.

In its strongest attack yet on France, Iran Saturday accused Paris of collaborating with the hijackers of the Iranian aircraft and said it was closing a French consulate and a French language teaching institute in retaliation.

Iran said the hijackers, who commanded the plane over Iran on Wednesday and flew it to Kuwait and then Paris, belonged to the banned Iranian guerrilla group

Mujahedin-e-Khalq. Mujahedin leader Masoud Rajavi, who has lived in Paris since fleeing Iran with Bani-Sadr two years ago, took part in talks with the six hijackers that led to their surrender on Thursday, but denied they were members of his group.

The hijackers were charged with air piracy in a Paris court Saturday. But France has refused an Iranian request for the extradition of the six men, whose names were not disclosed.

France said last December it would not allow Iraq to lose the now 34-month-old Gulf war because it believed a victorious Iran could threaten Western interests in the Middle East.

It said Iraq a squadron of Mirage fighter-bombers to boost Iraq's flagging air force and arranged to help Baghdad to pay for this and other arms purchases.

Last month, French press reports said France had agreed to lend Iraq five Super-Étendard planes which, if armed with French Exocet missiles, could wreak havoc on Iranian oil installations such as the Kharg Island export terminal.

Announcing that Iran was closing the French consulate in the provincial town of Isfahan and the French language teaching institute, a foreign ministry statement said France had repeatedly shown hostility towards Iran.

It also criticised what it said was French military, political and propaganda support for Iraq.

Egypt refuses to send troops to Chad

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted Sunday as saying Cairo had rejected a request by Chad for military advisers to aid the hard-pressed government of President Hissene Habre against rebels.

The newspaper Al-Messara said the president told Egyptian edi-

tors Saturday that Egypt was not prepared to send troops to fight abroad.

"I said our army does not serve as a mercenary force because it has its own national tasks," he has been asked to send air force pilots and military advisers to Chad, but we firmly turned down the request," Mr. Mubarak was quoted as saying.

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German-Jordanian archaeologists to investigate Fenan copper mines

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two West German specialists in ancient mining will lead a joint German-Jordanian team of archaeologists and mining experts this autumn on a six-week-long study of the ancient copper mines at Fenan, in the Wadi Araba in south Jordan.

The Fenan mines and associated smelting sites have been known since the early days of this century, when Western explorers and archaeologists noted the site during their travels in this region. But the site has never been systematically explored, mapped or excavated, despite its enormous size and the many historical references that attest to its role as a major copper mining and smelting facility throughout antiquity.

Dr. Hermann of Frankfurt and London universities and Dr. Andreas Hauptmann of the German Mining Museum at Bochum, West Germany, will head a team of up to eight specialists starting in early September, with the aim of conducting a thorough surface survey of the Fenan site and its immediate vicinity.

The site itself includes extensive remains of a city that probably dates from the Roman/Byzantine period, including standing structures such as walls, watchtowers, churches and pillars that once supported an aqueduct. One church seems to have had a minaret added to it, indicating it was converted for use as a mosque during the early Islamic period.

The most interesting aspect of the site is the evidence of copper mining and smelting activity in ancient times.

One of the noteworthy aspects of this project is that the team will use in the field for the first time ever a new machine that has been developed by a Finnish company. This machine provides on-the-spot chemical analysis of materials, such as the slag, that will help the researchers reconstruct the precise nature of the mining and smelting that has taken place at Fenan over the past 3,000 years.

On-the-spot analysis

Some of the slag heaps are 12 metres high, and by studying the slag remains the researchers will be able to determine the precise smelting system that was used at Fenan, as well as the exact quantities of pure copper ore that were produced in the past.

The Fenan expedition is being financed by a grant from the Volkswagen Foundation of West Germany.

The main site of the city and its immediate vicinity, in which slag remains are found, covers about one square kilometre, Professor Hauptmann said, but the survey will cover an area around the site extending up to some four or five kilometres in each direction. This is particularly important in order to find all the mining areas in the vicinity of the city, and also to identify other smelting sites that may have been located close to the mines.

Surface survey

Professor Hans-Gert Bac-

Slag heaps

Heaps scattered throughout the

Irbid citizens donate jewellery to Iraq's war efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraq's ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan said here Sunday that a number of citizens in Irbid Governorate have donated jewellery to Iraq to help its war effort.

The ambassador said this donation, which would be followed by others expressing the citizens' true commitment to their Arab nation's causes and its future.

Mr. Sultan who was speaking at a meeting with a delegation of Jordanian women from Irbid voiced his deep appreciation for the donation, and a delegation speaker expressed readiness to offer further contributions to support Iraq in its current national battle.

In Iraq itself a campaign seeking gold and cash donations to help the country's war effort against Iran has caught the public imagination and thousands of Iraqis have reportedly rallied to the call.

According to a Reuters report, nearly 20 tonnes of gold with current market value of about \$265 million and thousands of dollars in cash have poured into collection centres around the country.

Municipality warns against downtown extortionists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Municipality does not charge any fee from street vendors now using a spot running opposite King Talal Street, downtown Amman, according to a spokesman for

Amman Municipality. He said there is no truth in rumours that the municipality was charging fees from these vendors who have been recently moved to this spot from King Talal Street.

Court abrogates JD 2m compensation verdict

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Court of Appeal Thursday issued a verdict abrogating an earlier verdict passed by Amman's Court of First Instance in two cases numbers 1348/80 and 2166/80 which were filed by the lawyer of Sabri Farah establishment, which went bankrupt, against Grindlays Bank Ltd.

The Court of Appeal verdict considers null and void the judgement of the Court of First Instance which ruled that Grindlays pay JD 2 million to Sabri Farah establishment.

The case was regarded as the biggest one ever of its kind handled by Jordanian courts.

Road accident kills 3

MA'AN (J.T.) — Three people died Saturday evening in a road accident involving two heavy vehicles some 15 kilometres north of here. A report in Al Doustour newspaper Sunday said that the accident occurred between a Kuwaiti truck driven by 36-year-old Nazmi Mohammad Abdullah and a Jordanian truck driven by Sayel Dafi Abu Hilale from Ma'an.

The driver of the Kuwaiti truck was killed in the accident along with two of his nephews Bassam aged 14 and Hisham aged 11, the paper said.

The accident also caused the injury of two women also in the Kuwaiti truck, but several other children in the Kuwaiti truck escaped unhurt, the paper added.

Police rushed to the scene of the accident and carried the injured to Ma'an Government Hospital for treatment. They are holding an investigation.

Yarmouk University to add 3 more departments next year

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University has decided to create departments of nursing, medicine and dentistry at the start of the next academic year, university President Adnan Badran was quoted as saying in an interview published Sunday.

He told Al Ra'i newspaper that the nursing and medicine departments will be of great help to the university hospital which will be constructed in the coming year also. The hospital will be set up on the university's permanent site and will be supplied with sufficient qualified people and equipment.

Dr. Badran said. He said there are plans for establishing an institute for training students on simultaneous translation and another for those taking courses on diplomatic and international relations. Other plans, he added, include developing the existing centre on Hebrew studies to become a strategic studies centre, and promoting the university's continued education department, so as to add other subjects included in a plan for community service and approved by the university's council.

Following the transfer of the engineering faculty building to the permanent site, the university will

start creating a technical college to turn out much needed skilled technicians and people with technological training, Dr. Badran said.

Certain academic departments will be granted semi autonomy since they need to take independent decisions and concentrate their efforts for developing their fields of study specially in medical sciences and arts, Dr. Badran added.

According to Dr. Badran, the university intends to establish a special office for the welfare of university graduates and also to take charge of the publication of Yarmouk University gazette "that would highlight the affairs of the graduates and so build a bridge between these graduates and their university."

Yarmouk University has gone a long way towards fulfilling the goal of community service and this has contributed considerably towards reducing the drain of Jordan's



Dr. Adnan Badran

revenues and funds through the exodus of students seeking higher education at foreign universities and institutes, Dr. Badran said.

In its drive to achieve this goal, he said, the university created the "evening classes system" in 1980/81 academic year so as to serve those who had missed university learning. Students accepted for evening studies should have 60 per cent and above average in their secondary education examination (Tawjihi) and two years must elapse after their secondary education so that they can enroll for evening studies on condition that this does not conflict with their jobs, Dr. Badran said.

Also in 1980/81 academic year, the university opened paramedical colleges for pharmacy and medical sciences, and intends to add others for preventive medicine and general public health in the coming academic year, Dr. Badran added.

According to Dr. Badran, Yarmouk University participated with the University of Jordan in operating the Aqaba-based marine science station which is concerned with research work connected with marine environment, pollution in Aqaba Gulf and the development of sea life, among other subjects.

Recently, Dr. Badran pointed out, Yarmouk University graduated its fourth class of students who for the first time included engineers. Among the graduates were also students of mass media and journalism, Arabic and English languages, administrative sciences, economics, physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics and statistics.

A student needs to acquire 123 credit hours at the faculties of arts and 156 credit hours at the faculty of engineering before graduating and most of the courses are given in English, Dr. Badran said.

Jerash festival organisers aim to make the event an international occasion

By Hamed Abbadi
Petra

AMMAN — Jordan is preparing to open the second Jerash culture and arts festival on Aug. 12 under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. The specialist sub-committees of the festival are hard at work organising the event, and are doing their best to make the festival a success in order that it may become an international occasion in the near future.

The festival is important as a tourist, economic, political and cultural event, but getting the idea of the ground was not that easy. National Consultative Council member and chairperson of the higher national committee for the Jerash festival Laila Sharaf told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Mrs. Sharaf said that the volume of work required to implement the idea was enormous. It necessitated much administrative work and coordination between the interested authorities, she went on to say, especially in the absence of people who had experience in staging such a programme.

"Her Majesty Queen Noor discussed the question of organising the festival in Jerash during one of her visits to Yarmouk University where work originally began for implementing the idea," Mrs. Sharaf told Petra.

The first festival was restricted to local participation with the exception of a nominal contribution made by some friendly countries, she said. This was because the first event was intended as an experiment, and it was thought best to avoid foreign involvement until we found our feet, she said.

The second Jerash festival was scheduled to be held in the summer of 1982 with a larger Arab and international participation, but the events in Lebanon forced us to postpone the festival, she said.

There is going to be an enormous local, Arab and international participation in the Jerash festival this year because the aim of the festival is to activate culture and the arts in this country, and to create a cultural interaction between Jordan and

the cultures of other countries and people, Mrs. Sharaf told Petra. Mrs. Sharaf added that Islamic civilisation thrived only after the Arabs came in contact with other peoples after the early Islamic conquests. If the festival achieves a good reputation, this will have a positive effect on tourism in Jordan and its economy.

Furthermore, a foreign visitor to the festival cannot fail but be influenced politically, and this will help mold the visitors attitude towards Jordan, she said. We are keen that every type of person from every background in Jordan should participate in this festival, Mrs. Sharaf stated emphatically.

The state has spared no effort to support the festival, although in other countries of the world, it is usually the private sector which sponsors such festivals, she said.

Mrs. Sharaf expressed the hope that revenues accruing from the festival will cover expenses so that future festival can be self-financed. She also expressed the hope that the private sector would come forward to support the festival in future.

AWSA ready to tackle water shortage problems during Eid

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA) has taken all necessary measures to deal with problems arising from water shortages or calling for maintenance work of pipes and the provision of water tanks to remote regions during Eid Al Fitr holiday, according to an AWSA statement issued here Sunday.

It said that citizens complaining about water shortages or problems connected with the sewerage system can call upon the help of special teams assigned to carry out the job. Citizens can call Tel: 71125 or 71128 in matters connected with sewerage and Tel: 55523 for obtaining water tanks if they are in short supply of water, the statement added.

Gubser's book offers a thorough study of Jordan

Jordan (Crossroads of Middle Eastern Events by Peter Gubser, Westview Press (Boulder, Colorado) and Croom Helm Ltd. (Kent, England) 1983, 139 pages with illustrations.

Reviewed by Andrew I. Kilgore

Dr. Peter Gubser's book contains 139 pages, 18 photographs and 2 maps. This may seem to small to be in any real sense comprehensive. But in fact the book is crowded with facts, figures and general information, making it perhaps twice as meaty as would appear possible.

A short chapter on Environment sets out the stark, dramatic contrast marking Jordan's terrain and weather, from the deepest surface depression on earth at the Dead Sea to cool highlands above 3,000 feet; from rich, rain-fed agriculture in the northwestern Hawran to utterly desiccated basalt, flintstone or sand deserts in the East.

This central theme of dramatic variation — and related minor themes — recurs throughout this very worthwhile book in subsequent chapters on People, Economy, History, and Contemporary Politics and International Relations. Westerners who know Jordan will generally feel affectionate about the country, often sense a vague excitement about the place and, perhaps sometimes, suffer a twinge of guilt for having contributed to Jordan's problems. Dr. Gubser captures some of the excitement and obviously likes Jordan.

Thus, there is something in Jordan: Crossroads of Middle Eastern Events both for those who know the land well, and facts, figures and information galore for the uninitiated seeking to learn about the country.

The People chapter points out the significance of the radical demographic changes that occurred in Jordan as a consequence of the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars. About 1948, Dr. Gubser reports: "To the modest population of four hundred thousand plus souls were rapidly added about four hundred thousand Palestinian refugees who had fled the newly founded Israeli state."

The next big population shift in 1967, according to UNRWA data, brought some 300,000 more refugees from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. As the author notes: "This tumultuous pattern indicates the real human scope and consequences of recent Middle Eastern history."

The passage of time and the healthy development under the stable rule of King Hussein have eased some of the problems presented by these dramatic population shifts. The book gives due attention to the pace and direction of Jordan's national, cultural, social and educational growth during

the past decades. Jordan's economy is shown to be doing very well, when the apparent factors suggest it should be down and out. The author captures the irony in this, explaining that while exploitation of Jordan's agricultural and mineral resources is still limited, a talented people has raised the Gross Domestic Product from \$525 million in 1971 to \$1.8 billion in 1979. And unemployment is zero per cent; so many Jordanians are working abroad, mainly in the Arabian Gulf, that some 20,000 agricultural workers have had to be imported.

In the chapter on history, Dr. Gubser begins by outlining Jordan's long past, so redolent of a Westerner's knowledge of the ancient civilisations which flourished in the region: Greek, Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine and, finally in the seventh century, Islamic — the civilisation that "influences Jordan and its neighbours to this day." The bulk of the chapter, however, concentrates on the events following the Great Arab Revolt of 1916 and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in World War One. We learn about the major role of Amir (later King) Abdullah, grandfather of King Hussein, in the establishment of the Emirate of Transjordan in 1923 and in leading the nation to full independence in 1946 as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Two years later, the creation of Israel ushered in the long saga of political instability, turmoil and sporadic war which the world has come to generalise as "the Middle East problem," but which Jordan has experienced more than once as a direct and jarring threat to its very existence. Dr. Gubser's narration rightly puts Jordan "at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict" and gives us an understanding of the political complexities, both inter-

ationally and in the region, with which Jordan has had to deal in its efforts to achieve peace and secure its future.

The author remarks that as "a small, somewhat vulnerable country, Jordan is not a maker and shaker in regional or international affairs." This statement, however, may be qualified by the strong presence of King Hussein as Jordan's leader. Dr. Gubser points this out in the book's last chapter. Referring to "King Hussein's legitimacy in the eyes of his people," the author sums up the King's leadership as a good political reporting officer would.

He defines the factors which make up this "legitimacy" as: Membership in the Hashemite family, which led the Arab Revolt; direct ancestral lineage to the Prophet Mohammad; and a deep concern and proven capability in the economic and social development of his country. On the personal level, King Hussein is seen as a man who "enjoys a perception of strength of character in the face of major challenges, and his very survival in face of many adversities from the 1950s, and his longevity on the throne, form another legitimising element. He speaks eloquent Arabic, he possesses those honored qualities of courage and daring, and he obviously meets and relates to other heads of states as an equal."

Peter Gubser, a former resident of Jordan and now President of Near East Refugee Aid in Washington, D.C., has written a fine book which should be in the library of all persons interested in the Middle East.

Mr. Kilgore, a retired Foreign Service officer now living and working in Washington, D.C., is a former Consul in Jerusalem, Political Officer in Amman and Jordan Desk Officer in the State Department.

— Jordan Magazine



Warmest greetings and congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein and other members of the royal family, and to the government and people of Jordan on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr.

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An occasion to ponder

JORDAN, along with most Arab and Islamic nations, today marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan with 'Eid Al Fitr' feast. The occasion is sacred to all Muslims, not only because the holy Koran was revealed in Ramadan but also because the month-long fasting should have taught us the many virtues of sacrifice, patience and piety. The occasion has to be happy, as well. In Ramadan, Muslims give alms to the poor and needy so that all could celebrate together on the day of feast.

Under normal circumstances, the 'Eid Al Fitr' holiday would be a good time for all of us to forget our troubles, relax and be thankful for what we have, as individuals and as a people.

These, however, are not normal circumstances for Jordan and the Arab World; and, unfortunately, most of us will once again dwell on the suffering of the Arab Nation at large, and on how to end it, in dignity and before it is too late.

We will be especially reminded of the suffering of the Palestinian people — those living under Israeli occupation and the others in exile. The wounds in Lebanon following the Israeli invasion are fresh, and many of them are still open. We will be thinking of all the victims of Israeli barbarities, Lebanese and Palestinians and others, that are rarely witnessed by mankind.

On this occasion, we will also have to remember that Arab disunity is the major factor behind our dismemberment and aimlessness; and that Arabs cannot possibly overcome their problems by raising more slogans and volunteering more talk.

If we, as Arabs, do have a feeling of timelessness, let us remember that the enemy wants to and does make the most out of it. So many years have passed since the land was occupied and our brethren subjugated, and each year we promise ourselves that the next will be better, but to no avail.

Religious rites for marking this 'Eid' should be enough. But let us do something so that next year's will be a cause for celebration.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Admission of failure

U.S. SECRETARY of State George Shultz was sufficiently clear in admitting failure of his recent Middle Eastern tour. Since no one can know for sure what went on behind the scenes during this mission specially in Damascus, Shultz's open admission of failure could mean one of two things:

First, that objectivity in his assessing the mission's results had taken priority over all other considerations, presuming that what had been declared about the mission actually took place behind the scenes.

Second, that Shultz has wanted from this moment to absolve himself from any future scenario that might surface in the region. Therefore he opted to declare his failure so as to wash his hands from any inference that might be made from his mission and the possible future scenario.

In both cases the result does not augur well. If the first deduction is correct, that means the American Administration will not benefit from Shultz's failure and avoid such recurrence in the future. This is because the causes of this failure had been of Washington's own making and the result of its policies based on its full understanding with Israel. These policies will continuously lead to a weakening of American credibility and eventually to total failure of U.S. policies.

But if the second deduction is correct, it means that Shultz's mission had achieved something "in the dark" and that the American secretary preferred to keep it secret until it is revealed by events in the future. In any case the outcome of Shultz's secret mission in the region will be revealed one day but the Arabs should not wait so long for this result. They should benefit from the lessons of the past and reassess their own positions and potentials and prepare for recovering their rights.

Al Dustour: Israel's annexation plan

THE SERIOUS events in the occupied town of Hebron and the very difficult conditions under which our kinsmen live cannot simply be a reaction to the killing of an Israeli youth in the town. This is in fact one more link in a long term plan: The Judaization of Palestine and the annexation of all of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel's pretext for invading Lebanon was the attempt on the life of the Israeli ambassador in London, and the killing of the Zionist youth in Hebron would be the obvious pretext for embarking on the annexation of the town. This is in fact the main aim for the Israelis ever since they established their Kiryat Arba' settlement near Hebron. One should also not forget that the Zionists have made no secret of their intention of building a Jewish synagogue in the Arab town.

Israel's Judaization plans actually started with the formal annexation of Jerusalem and this was followed by the building of settlements around Nablus with the ultimate goal of swallowing up Arab lands.

Israel is pursuing its plans relentlessly and what is happening in Hebron is only part of the plans. But the heroic stand of the Arab people under Israeli rule and their steadfastness there are not sufficient to foil Israel's plans without continued support and assistance from Arab countries.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israeli plans in Hebron

THE OCCUPIED town of Hebron continues to face Zionist terrorism and the acts of vandalism by Zionist settlers of Kiryat Arba'. After the imposition of the curfew on the town and after the burning of Arab shops and destruction of their property, the Israeli government seems to be directing its attention towards two things: The first is the formation of Israeli armed militia among Zionist settlers in Jerusalem and Nablus and the second, the reconstruction of the old Jewish quarter in Hebron.

It is clear that the two proposals aim at exploiting the killing of the Israeli youth in Hebron a few days ago and taking it as a pretext for massacring the Arab population of the town or annexing the town and evicting its inhabitants.

The militias which the settlers are demanding to form are already there, and they had repeatedly committed criminal actions against the people of Hebron and other Arab towns and cities with or without a pretext.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens's statement about the history of Hebron and the old Jewish quarter there, indicate that the Israeli authorities are contemplating an imminent takeover of the Arab town.

Meager gains for 'South' in UNCTAD

By John Rogers

Reuter

BELGRADE — A month of intensive bargaining has confirmed Third World fears that the West is not ready to expand the narrow common ground between them on world economic relations.

The sixth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) achieved only meagre results and was seen as a failure by ministers and officials from many developing countries.

They met a wall of refusal by the United States and other western nations to modify the West's view that its own incipient recovery from recession is the key to world revival.

In the absence of global economic negotiations which developing nations demand, UNCTAD's four-yearly conferences are the main forum for a "north-south dialogue."

After UNCTAD-6, many delegates left Belgrade questioning their value.

"There won't be any real global negotiations while the present administration is in power in Washington," a dejected U.N. official commented.

Third World countries came to Belgrade seeking immediate measures to boost their economies, hit worse than the West's by the recession.

Though few had high expectations of action, they sought a package including debt relief, roll-backs in protectionism, big injections of cash in development aid and International Monetary Fund (IMF) reserve assets, and long-term reform of world economic relations.

Their delegates left frustrated by what one called "a poker game in which one side held all the cards."

Western officials made sure that more than 20 resolutions on aid, trade, commodities and finance, and a final conference statement, contained no commitment to action or spending.

"It's like giving aspirin to a man who's had a heart attack," an African delegate said.

Developing countries, far from persuading the West to accept their platform worked out at Buenos Aires last April, failed to

make more than pinpricks in the West's armour.

On aid, Western countries reaffirmed existing pledges. On trade, they promised to halt protectionism in line with existing commitments and agreed to "work systematically towards reducing and eliminating quantitative restrictions."

On debt, UNCTAD-6 urged official creditors to facilitate rescheduling.

The conference approved resolutions calling for steps to stabilise commodity prices, including early launching of a "common fund" to finance buffer stock operations.

It urged substantial replenishment of funds of the World Bank's soft loan arm, the International Development Association (IDA), and agreed to set up an expert group on compensatory financing for shortfalls in Third World commodity earnings.

On finance, developing countries made a small breakthrough by getting the West to accept — for the first time — a string of cautious recommendations by

UNCTAD to the IMF.

They were slim pickings compared with Third World demands for full revision of the IMF structure, but marked a major concession by the West, a senior European delegate said.

The West argues that the IMF, the World Bank, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and other cornerstones of the Western-dominated international system can tackle world problems without major reforms.

They want to keep the 19-year-old UNCTAD in its place, reviewing commodities, trade and development. But they do not want it to grow strong teeth.

Just before UNCTAD-6 wound up early last Sunday, a total breakdown appeared possible.

In the end, delegates salvaged a final conference statement unlikely to have a radical effect on future talks on development issues in the U.N. system and at meetings such as the annual IMF-World Bank conference.

"We have missed a historic opportunity to contribute meaningfully to world development and recovery," said Somalia's Abd-

illahi Soaid Osman for the Third World "group of 77."

The final statement was far weaker than the Third World would have liked and differed widely in its view of international economic ties from the Western stand most recently expressed at the Seven-Nation Williamsburg summit in May.

It called, for instance, for "an integrated set of policies, encompassing short term measures in areas of critical importance to developing countries and long term changes relevant to the attainment of a new international economic order."

The U.S. dissociated itself from the statement, which chief delegate Gordon Streeb branded "too negative, one-sided and in places too ideological to be acceptable."

The U.S. voted, alone, against two resolutions while other Western nations lodged a string of reservations.

Despite failure to reach any substantial accord, officials from both sides saw one pointer to the future from UNCTAD-6 — acceptance by the West that its own

economic progress is linked to that of the Third World.

The conference put little flesh on that bare bone, a fact which many Third World delegates saw as showing that the West was only paying lip-service to interdependence. Others saw the outcome more positively.

"I see this conference as a beginning of directions which will have to be pursued by the international community," UNCTAD Secretary-General Gamani Corea told Reuters.

"At least we have identified the areas in which there is an unbridgeable gap," said a Western development leader.

"The important thing was not so much the resolutions," an Indonesian delegate said. "But this conference has reestablished the link between recovery and development."

"When the recession struck, Westerners forgot the importance of development as they concentrated on their own recovery. Now they see the two-way street again and realise that development of the third world can help them too."



Reagan possible to face a 'Briefinggate' scandal

By David Nagy

Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan has found himself quickly ensnared in a potential scandal over the methods used in achieving his famous success in a television debate with Jimmy Carter just before the 1980 presidential election.

The speed with which claims and counter-claims have mushroomed into such a major issue has served notice to all incumbents of the White House — present and future — that the ghost of Watergate is there to stay.

Behind-the-scenes political capers were seldom reported, let alone investigated, before the string of buggings, break-ins, dirty-tricks and cover-ups that sent many aides of President Nixon to jail and drove Mr. Nixon himself out of office in 1974.

Now, any whiff of scandal can lead to real trouble — as Reagan discovered when a congressional committee and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) moved in on the case.

So far, the only thing not in dispute is the incident which started it all.

A new book about Mr. Reagan revealed that in October, 1980, someone on Jimmy Carter's reelection staff gave someone on Reagan's staff hundreds of pages of briefing papers designed to prepare Carter for his crucial televised campaign debate with Reagan.

The papers eventually reached Mr. Reagan campaign aide David Stockman, now the top White House adviser on budget policy, who admits he found them "useful" in rehearsing Mr. Reagan for the event.

There the accused and the accusers — former Carter aides and other Democrats — part company in a welter of claims and counter-claims as to what happened and what damage resulted.

The key questions, to be pursued by a Democratic-run House of Representatives subcommittee and the Justice Department with FBI assistance, are these:

— Was any law broken in the transfer of the Carter documents? Or is the violation one of ethics alone?

— How was the material obtained? By chance, from a disgruntled Carter aide? By subterfuge and theft encouraged by Reagan aides? Did money change hands? Were favours offered?

— Who handed it over? Was it more than one person, as ex-Carter aides Jody Powell and Patrick Caddell suspect?

— Who accepted it? Was it Reagan campaign manager William Casey, now director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), who says he remembers nothing about the affair?

For the moment, Mr. Reagan himself seems to have satisfied most critics about two other points central to what the U.S. press is calling "debategate" and "briefinggate": Whether he knew about the Carter papers at the time and whether they had any significant impact on the outcome of the debate.

At a news conference dominated by the issue, Mr. Reagan said he had never heard of the

Carter papers until the story broke and that they had no bearing on his performance.

"Since the material never got to the debater, what purpose did it serve?" he said.

Most commentators and political opponents have taken Mr. Reagan at his word on this point. But the issue has swept beyond that to larger questions of law and ethics — and here the president has fared poorly since his tense news conference when reporters badgered him for answers.

Their queries tried to laugh off their queries and assert his original view that the row was "much ado about nothing."

But he grew testy under such questions as: Did he think the penetration of a rival's camp was just politics-as-usual? And what did he propose to do about such aides as Stockman and his Chief of Staff James Baker who did know about the papers?

On the question of legality, the president suggested that some disgruntled Carter aide might have provided the papers unasked. "Is it 'stolen' if someone hands it to

you?" Mr. Reagan asked.

On the ethics of political campaign spying, he stated: "No, I think politics should be above reproach and there shouldn't be unethical things done in a campaign."

But he went on to insist that his own aides had done nothing improper.

"Those answers were widely greeted as unsatisfactory."

"Why is he so evasive and sanctimonious about the ethical issues?" asked a New York Times leader. "Even if the law was not violated, the ethical questions are subtle and perplexing."

The Washington Post said: "Something not quite cricket happened... whether something far worse occurred awaits the information as to how that document was acquired."

Some analysts took Mr. Reagan's side. A Washington Times leader deplored "this lust for scandal" as grossly out of proportion. But many echoed the view of columnist William Safire, a former Nixon White House speechwriter: "The issue is, now that Mr. Reagan knows that at least an one-

thical lapse took place, what is he going to do about it?"

Whatever investigators now turn up, the affair is a classic example for good or ill of the impact the Watergate scandals left upon U.S. politics, journalism and public attitudes.

In just a few days, the following developments occurred in a high-velocity chain reaction:

Mr. Stockman admitted he used the papers; James Baker said he saw them and recalled getting them from Mr. Casey, who denied any recollection; Mr. Reagan told the Justice Department to investigate vigorously and Democrats demanded the appointment of a Watergate-style special prosecutor.

A week ago, White House aides were scoffing at the charges and saying any comparison with Watergate was preposterous.

This weekend, as Mr. Reagan was on holiday in California, White House spokesman Larry Speakes was asked again his view of "Watergate parallels."

Speakes replied: "I have no judgment until the facts come out."

Vietnam: Ready to defend national independence

By Ian MacDowall

Reuter

LANG SON, Vietnam — He's fought the French, he's fought the Americans and now he's fought the Chinese. Frankly, he says, he wasn't too impressed by any of them.

The French war was small stuff, he says. "We concluded the Americans were rich but not strong. And the Chinese were many but not strong."

In his shabby green denims, his bare feet thrust into rubber sandals, Colonel Doan Do has no parade ground gloss to match that of his opposite numbers from St. Cyr or West Point.

But his views carry weight, for he holds senior rank in the Vietnamese army, arguably the best infantry force in the world and certainly the most battle-hardened.

Col. Do, now 55, first fought in the ranks of Ho Chi Minh's Vietminh guerrillas to drive the French colonial troops from parallel to fight the South Vietnamese and the half-million Americans

sent to back them in the 1960s. Today he commands frontier defence forces in Lang Son province, scene of a brief war with China in 1979 and of renewed clashes in April. Each side accuses the other of continuing harassment and espionage along the mountainous border.

The desultory Chinese shelling two months ago was viewed by Western diplomats in Hanoi as a mild demonstration that Peking would not let Vietnam go unoppressed in its dry-season offensive against Chinese-backed guerrilla forces in Vietnamese-occupied Kampuchea.

The attack was a pinprick compared to the invasion of February, 1979, two months after Vietnamese troops overthrew what Hanoi calls the genocidal Pol Pot government in Kampuchea.

Provincial official Phoi Long told Reuters that the Chinese used 600,000 men in all in the attack, 200,000 of them in a thrust at the provincial capital, also called Lang Son. It took them 17 days to reach it, an advance of one kilometre a

day — and they withdrew almost immediately after blowing up many public buildings.

Mr. Long said the Chinese had lost 19,000 dead, the Vietnamese only a few hundred. Whether or not the casualty figures were so one-sided, foreign diplomats in Hanoi at the time generally agreed that the Chinese had taken a bloody nose in an operation which had been intended to teach Vietnam a lesson over its Kampuchean invasion.

Col. Do said the Chinese were maintaining harassment along the province's 253-kilometre border in a war of nerves designed to maintain tension and sap Vietnam's economy.

He went further. "They have so many troops along the border they could launch an attack at any time. They are actively preparing to launch a large-scale war."

This claim is echoed by Vietnamese officials in Hanoi, where the Chinese embassy dismisses it as absurd. West European embassies there are generally sceptical while one East European dip-

lomat said the Vietnamese authorities were using the Chinese bogey to foster national solidarity.

The truth is probably more complex. For 2,000 years the target of repeated invasions from north or west, for centuries under Chinese domination, and for the past 40 years living almost continuously in a state of war, Vietnam is obsessed by the question of security.

If the Chinese do strike again in Lang Son, Col. Do is confident that his men can beat them off. He says that in the 1979 incursion the Chinese failed to deploy their heavy weapons properly and relied upon traditional human wave tactics in which they took heavy losses.

Little in evidence

The few foreign visitors who have been given a tour of the defences say the Vietnamese are heavily dug in for kilometres back from the frontier and could put up a fierce resistance. The casual visitor, driving up the 160-kilometre road from Hanoi, sees little evi-

dence however of a defence build-up.

The narrow, winding road is not being widened to carry military supplies as is the corresponding road on the Chinese side. An airfield guarded by SAM-2 missiles lies well back from the border, with no aircraft visible. Another SAM battery crowns a hilltop nearer the border.

A handful of army trucks and armoured personnel carriers are parked under camouflage by the roadside near the border where small outposts are dug on the reverse slopes of the limestone hills, shielded from Chinese fire.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon all is peaceful, with conscripts wandering into Lang Son market to buy sour plums for a few coppers from their scanty pay and the road is busy only with peasant traffic.

"There are things you cannot see," Col. Do replied with smile when asked about the few visible signs of defence preparations. Perhaps, the most potent of these invisible weapons is the fact

that this is still a nation in arms. Few men have not been in guerrilla or regular service at some time, few families have not lost at least one close relative in the country's wars.

Civilians dress like soldiers, soldiers look as casual as civilians. Military camps in the area, simple huts of mud and wattle, look like higgledy-piggledy peasant villages — by design or accident — and conscripts, mostly peasants themselves, till the nearby fields supplement their pay and improve their rations.

At Chi Lang Pass, a few kilometres from the border, a large roadside sign lists 52 battles fought nearby against Chinese invaders over the centuries.

"The Chinese are crafty and dangerous," Col. Do said. "They always say they are friendly, but inside they are trying to destroy us."

If the colonel is right and the Chinese do attack again, the sons of the veterans of Dien Bien Phu and of the tet offensive are likely to give them one hell of a fight.

لبنان

Egypt's economy slides deep into deficit

AIRO (R) — The fading of the boom has left Egypt's economy reeling, with the deficit deepening into deficit. High inflation and rising costs are combining to pile up a comfortable long-term profit margin.

But the expectations of ordinary people are as high as ever, and the government of President Hosni Mubarak shrinks from raising their wrath by lowering the subsidies that guard the economy from the rigors of economic reality.

It was the oil bonanza of the 1970s and its allied benefits which pushed Egyptian growth rates up beyond nine per cent a year.

At \$40 a barrel, oil then provided ample funds to be lavished on consumer imports and on subsidies to protect the poor against harsh world prices.

Now Egyptian top-grade oil sells at \$28.25 a barrel. Other prime sources of revenue also have levelled off, and the national budget and trade balance are under increasing strain.

Mr. Mubarak's strategy is to cut back on consumer imports and devote the \$2 billion worth of aid flowing into Egypt each year to building productive industry and agriculture.

Advisers doubt progress. Foreign advisers applaud the objective of future self-sufficiency founded on present self-sufficiency. But many of them doubt whether Egypt can achieve its goals within the current economic structure.

A major handicap, in their view, is the sprawling state industry built up under Soviet tutelage by the late president Gamal Abdul Nasser.

Public sector enterprise now accounts for more than 75 per cent of the Egyptian economy. State industry produces goods at government-ordered low prices which often have little relation to real cost. Its wage levels are low, and manning levels high. Losses are met out of the state budget.

Another burden is the subsidy system which keeps food and other essential items down to a fraction of their real cost. Subsidies for fiscal 1983-84 were set at \$2,028 million.

This was a fall of about 17 per cent on the previous year mainly because of a drop in world commodity prices but it still represented eight per cent of Gross National Product (GNP).

Deficit may top \$6b. These and other factors have built up a gross budget deficit which is expected to top \$6 billion in fiscal 1983-84, an increase of 3.5 per cent on the previous year and about 20 per cent of GNP.

The budget deficit is only part of the problem. Heavy imports, mostly of food, pushed up the trade deficit last year to \$5,097 million, six per cent more than in 1981.

Even when service receipts from tourism, Suez Canal tolls and remittances from Egyptians working

abroad were counted, the current account deficit stood at \$2.4 billion.

Ministers estimate the drop in oil revenue will cost Egypt about \$500 million in the coming financial year.

Remittances from Egyptians working abroad, mostly in the Arab oil states, are the second biggest foreign exchange earner and these too have levelled off.

Statistics are hazy. Like most other statistics in Egypt, the remittance figures are hazy. Nobody can say with any confidence just how many Egyptians work abroad.

But according to foreign estimates, expatriate Egyptians sent home \$2,329 million in 1982, an increase of 6.8 per cent on the previous year but still 14 per cent lower than in 1981 when Gulf states were awash with surplus oil money.

Tourism, which last year earned about \$853 million, has similarly tailed off from the boom years.

The only steadily rising source of income is the Suez Canal whose earnings last year at \$953 million were 7.3 per cent up on 1981, despite a fall in tanker traffic.

In the absence of firm statistics, Egypt's foreign debt is estimated by economists at upwards of \$16 billion, mostly in long-term soft loans.

Servicing this debt is reckoned by some experts to take up an uncomfortable 22 per cent of

ability to make the investments needed to remain competitive.

According to the U.S. trade representative's office, special steel imports accounted for about 20 per cent of the U.S. market in 1982.

Major suppliers were Japan, West Germany, Sweden, France, Spain, Britain, Brazil, South Korea and Italy.

Under Mr. Reagan's four-year import relief plan, gradually declining tariffs will be imposed on steel sheet, strip and plate. Gradually increasing quotas will be applied to steel bar, rod and alloy tool steel, sectors of the industry which Mr. Reagan says have suffered the most injury.

The industry had hoped for five-year quotas on all products and says the tariffs will be virtually useless, encouraging foreign countries to subsidize special steel producers further.

The U.S. industry argues that with demand dropping foreign producers are flooding the American market, causing severe losses that threaten U.S. producers

question that there are unfair practices. The United States cannot sell an ounce of stainless steel to France or Korea or Brazil. In other countries there are domestic subsidies.

Special steels are highly refined metals resistant to heat, rust and corrosion which are valued for the production of tools, surgical instruments and certain types of construction.

But they account for only a tiny portion of total steel production, representing less than two per cent of the 60 million tons of steel produced in the U.S. last year.

The problem largely lies in chronic excess production capacity in the industry worldwide, aggravated by a reduced demand for steel products during the recession.

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Foreign experts prescribe four key remedies.

Number one is to tackle population growth which now adds about a million more Egyptians every 10 months to the present 45 million inhabitants.

This increase keeps just ahead of growth in agricultural production.

As it is Egypt produces only half the food it eats. In one key sector, wheat, Egypt imports 80 per cent of its needs.

More food output listed. Increasing food production is number two on the list of foreign recommendations.

Experts say Egyptian land could be made to yield up to 70 per cent more with the help of relatively simple basic technology.

But even more important than technology, experts say, is to pay producers more for their crops to dissuade them from forsaking the land and drifting into the cities.

Government officials resist this notion.

"If we paid them more they would produce the same amount as before and just pocket the difference," the Egyptian argument runs.

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Cutting consumption recommended

The third recommendation being pressed on Egypt is to cut back on food consumption.

Subsidies make food so cheap that it is often thrown away or given to animals.

Number four is to discourage energy consumption.

Petrol, electricity and cooking gas are sold at about one fifth of world prices with the result that Egyptians consume about 45 per cent of the 700,000 barrels of oil produced by the nation each day.

This eats into export earnings and depletes reserves which may level off all too soon.

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In the 1982-1987 five-year development plan about 75 per cent of the planned \$42 billion expenditure is allocated to public sector enterprise.

Foreign businessmen are sceptical about the prospects for Egyptian industry. Stories abound of faulty planning, inefficient management and sub-standard products turned out by a work force with little experience of industrial disciplines.

American officials who administer the one billion dollars' worth of U.S. aid allocated to Egypt each year show little enthusiasm for funding public sector activity.

Their efforts to steer funds into private enterprise projects have led to open strain with the Egyptian government, which has repeatedly asked for aid arrangements more like those enjoyed by Israel.

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WORLD

Soviet Union, 2 allies boycott world psychiatric meeting

VIENNA (R) — The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Sunday opened a meeting, without the Soviet Union and two of its allies, to consider political abuses of psychiatry.

Delegates said the confidential agenda included a report by a committee set up in 1977 to research allegations of psychiatric mistreatment on political grounds.

The WPA general assembly will also discuss a resolution proposed by the British Royal College of Psychiatrists condemning all political abuse of psychiatry and persecution of people who report such abuse, the delegates added.

Moscow's All Union Society of Neuropsychologists and Psychiatrists withdrew from the WPA last January before a motion to expel it on grounds of alleged political abuse could be tabled. The motion would have been put to Sunday's session. Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia also quit.

But WPA general secretary Prof. Peter Berner has said in an interview with the Austrian news agency he does not expect a total East-West split in the WPA which now numbers 73 member countries.

Psychiatrists from Hungary, Poland, Romania and East Germany would attend the assembly, he added.

Members of an international association on the political abuse of psychiatry, an independent pressure group, lobbied delegates as they filed into the assembly hall which was closed to reporters.

The organisation, which coordinates activities of Western human rights groups and psychiatrists, said in a statement that the WPA 1977 review committee could not act effectively because of refusals by the Soviet Union to cooperate and a lack of resources.

It called on the WPA to work towards ending all political abuse of psychiatry and the release and rehabilitation of those who have been persecuted for opposing such abuses.

Austria's opposition People's Party Sunday called on the WPA to send a committee to the Soviet Union to research alleged abuses of psychiatry.

Human rights spokesman Josef Hoehchl said in a statement that researched cases showed 192 Soviet citizens were being forcibly given psychiatric treatment because of their political or religious beliefs.

Mr. Hoehchl called for the release of Soviet psychiatrist Dr. Anatoly Koriagin who was sentenced to 12 years in camps and exile for opposing abuses of psychiatric treatment.

U.S. 'separatists' on trial

GOSHEN (R) — Three members of a revolutionary group seeking to set up a separatist black state in America go on trial here Monday accused of murdering two policemen and a security guard.

Judith Clark, 33, David Gilbert, 39, and Kwasi Balagoon (Donald Weems), 35, are members of the "armed revolutionary task force" — a coalition of the extremist "black liberation army" and the "weather underground", a 1960s radical group that went underground during the Vietnam War.

They are accused of committing the murders during an abortive bank robbery in Nyack, New York, about 48 kilometres from New York City in October 1981.

The trial was moved to this sleepy village about 105 kilometres north of New York, where the summer's big events are usually horse races and a country fair, when it was decided pre-trial

publicity would prevent a fair hearing in the area where the killings took place.

State troopers and police are guarding the local courthouse to prevent clashes between the defendants' left-wing supporters and residents priding themselves on their patriotism.

The radicals will conduct their own defence and say they will claim the attempted bank robbery was a political "expropriation" aimed at funding the "republic of new Africa" — a black separatist state to be set up in Mississippi.

The three, who were caught in a shootout, said they will also claim they are "prisoners of war" and should be tried before the United Nations.

Six of their colleagues are currently being tried separately on federal bank robbery, conspiracy and racketeering charges in a federal court in New York City.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Peruvian rebels strike heavy blow

LIMA (R) — About 50 Maoist guerrillas have killed 12 civil guards in an attack on the police headquarters of a remote Andean village, a Peruvian newspaper reported Sunday. The government-owned daily La Cronica said the attack took place three days ago in Ocoyabamba in the province of Abancay, some 600 kilometres southeast of Lima.

Brunei arrests illegal immigrants

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia (R) — Brunei police have arrested 25 construction workers from Malaysia and Indonesia for illegally entering the North Borneo sultanate, officials there said Sunday. The workers were arrested in raids Saturday night in a village and Kuala Belait, they told Reuters by telephone from Bandar Seri Begawan. The officials said the arrests emphasised the need for Brunei and Malaysia to sign a border agreement to regulate the movement of people between the oil-rich sultanate and the east Malaysian state of Sabah.

Welsh to play deadly-boring tune

PRESTIGE, Wales (R) — A long-winded piece of music widely acknowledged as the most boring ever composed is set for performance in Wales — with an escape route laid on if the audience runs out of staying power. Erik Satie's "variations", consisting of fewer than a dozen bars which the score requires to be repeated 814 times, was originally intended to last 24 hours. But the local arts association has compromised, settling for an abridged 17-hour version. It will be delivered in short bursts on an electric organ by music teacher Adrian Fish. Tuesday's performance has been arranged in a strategically-placed room at Prestige's Concert Hall. It opens on to a street, offering a quick exit for listeners overwhelmed by the tedium.

Brainwave fails to help robber

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — Sammy Darroch hurried into a barber's shop and asked for a short haircut, a black tint and the instant removal of his moustache. Hair stylist Denise Atkinson wondered why he was chain-smoking and nervous as he waited for the tint to dry. Then police burst in and arrested him for robbing a nearby shopkeeper. Witnesses had overheard him asking the way to the nearest hairdresser. A court jailed Darroch for three-and-a-half years.

Beatles studio to be opened for public

LONDON (R) — The Abbey Road studio where the Beatles recorded almost all their songs in the 1960s is to be opened to fans. The studio, number three Abbey Road in London's wealthy St John's Wood area, was made famous by the group's last album in 1969 titled "Abbey Road." The recording firm Thorn-EMI, which owns the studio, is opening it from July 18 to Sept. 11 and putting on a twice-daily 80-minute presentation of film clips of the band along with some previously-unreleased recordings.

Yangtze menaces thousands

PEKING (R) — Hundreds of thousands of people Sunday huddled to save their homes and farmland menaced by the rising waters of China's mighty Yangtze River.

Official reports spoke of huge torrents of water surging downstream from the mountains of southwestern Sichuan Province and threatening to smash dykes along a 600 kilometre stretch in central Hubei Province.

Thousands of people turned out to bolster the dykes while others parolled the river watching for signs of the water breaking through.

The Yangtze was already up to 2.5 metres above warning level in parts of Hubei and local officials said it would rise even more over the next few days, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said.

No casualties have been reported. But at least 70,000 homes and 300 factories were flooded in the provincial capital of Wuhan, a major industrial city further downstream following torrential rain last week, the agency said.

Monitored radio reports from Changsha, capital of neighbouring Hunan Province, said efforts were being made to contain the waters of the Dongting Lake, which runs into the Yangtze.

There has been no indication of the effect on crops in the areas affected, which cover some of the major rice-growing provinces.

At this time of year, the rains may not be destroying crops as much as delaying planting of late rice after the early harvest has been taken in, according to Chinese experts.

Brazilian unions call for strike

SAO PAULO (R) — Brazil's trade unions have called a one-day national strike on July 21 to protest against austerity measures imposed by the government, now seeking to find fresh funds to meet repayments on the country's massive foreign debt.

The strike call by leaders of 137 unions followed stoppages at some oil refineries and by metalworkers at car plants in the Sao Paulo industrial suburb of Sao Bernardo.

The Sao Bernardo metalworkers were to meet Sunday to decide on their next move. But union leaders said they were likely to call off their stoppage and join the strike on July 21.

Some public employees' unions, who last month held demonstrations against proposed government spending cuts, have also announced a "day of national protest" for July 21.

Silent protest in Corsica

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — Nearly 2,000 people paraded silently through the main street here Saturday night to protest over the kidnapping and alleged murder last month of Corsican nationalist militant Guy Orsoni, police said.

Carrying a banner reading "French state: Assassin" in Corsican dialect, the protesters marched to the local seat of government where a speaker repeated claims that Orsoni was murdered by order of the French authorities.

Police chief Robert Broussard has said Orsoni was the victim of a gangland killing.

MX, Nicaragua, Volcker, 'debategate,' dominant themes of Congress agenda

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Congress returns Monday from a week-long Independence Day holiday with the reconfirmation of Paul Volcker as U.S. Central Bank chairman topping a clogged agenda of unfinished business ranging from weapons policy to political ethics.

At Thursday's confirmation hearings, senate banking committee members will get a chance for the first time in several months to question Mr. Volcker on the future courses of U.S. monetary policy and interest rates.

Concern has also been expressed by the White House and Congress that a new round of higher interest rates could stall the economy's recovery from deep recession.

Despite these fears, Mr. Volcker's reconfirmation to head the country's Central Bank for another four years seems virtually assured.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate plan to settle soon the issue of funding production of the controversial MX intercontinental missile as well.

Also to be decided will be procurement of new bombers, the B-1bs, as the eventual successors to the aged fleet of long-range B-52s.

Congress will also be debating whether military aid to anti-government guerrillas in Nicaragua should be secret or open.

In the domestic arena, a congressional subcommittee plans to step up its investigation of what has become known as "debategate."

The lawmakers are probing how aides to Ronald Reagan came upon internal campaign documents of then-President Jimmy Carter before a key debate between the two candidates during the 1980 campaign.

Mr. Reagan has also ordered an independent Justice Department investigation.

Legislators have several other international and domestic issues to tackle before their planned month-long summer break begins on Aug. 6.

Among these is the issue of an \$8.4 billion U.S. commitment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help developing nations end their debt crises has not been resolved.

The Republican-controlled Senate has approved the extra funds in a supplemental appropriations bill for 1983 but the lower house has not included the money in its version of the measure.

Most analysts still expect a defeat for the hangers, though by a narrow margin. The election brought an estimated 70 votes for hanging into Parliament and drove out 55 anti-hangers.

The latest estimate predicts a vote of 316 MPs in favour of hanging and 332 against, with the intentions of one unknown.

But David Jenkins, director of a penal reform group which conducted the survey, said: "There is a danger that complacency could set the return of hanging for certain crimes."

Some MPs will press only for the state to hang killers of policemen, although such crimes are rare at one or two a year, or killers of prison officers, only one of whom has been killed since 1965.

Behind much of the pressure lies frustration over the growth of the gun in a society once so law-abiding that its national murder rate compared favourably with a single New York precinct.

One MP will seek hanging for any shooting murder. Eminent lawyer Louis Blom-Cooper pointed out this would spare a cunning poisoner but doom a man who shot his wife as a mercy killing.

And though armed robberies trebled from 574 in 1971 to 1,893 in 1981, the number of people shot dead fell from 36 to 32.

"Robbers don't carry guns with the intention of shooting people," the Guardian newspaper quoted one MP as saying. "They're there to frighten people. People don't understand why shotguns are seen off — to make them less lethal."

Civil rights groups point to the cases of at least nine men convicted of murder since 1965 who subsequently, up to 12 years later, proved their innocence.

They cite the infamous case of Timothy Evans, 24, executed in 1950 for killing his wife, a crime to which mass murderer John Christie later confessed. Evans was posthumously pardoned in 1966.

Britain's police are solidly behind capital punishment, citing 30 officers killed in the 18 years since 1965, against 11 in the 18 years before. Their federation, representing 118,000 policemen, wants hanging restored for all types of murder.

Prison officers go even further and say some rapists and kidnappers should be hanged, though there is no possibility of this happening.

Prison governors are meanwhile about to go on record as saying they do not want executions carried out in their prisons.

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Britain's defunct hangman's job depends on few votes Wednesday

By Alexander Masey
Reuter

LONDON — A handful of votes is likely to determine whether Britain brings back the hangman this week.

After a brief but intense national debate, Parliament decides on Wednesday if Britain, alone among West European nations, should resume the practice of executing murderers.

Parliament has voted on the issue every few years since capital punishment was abolished in 1965 but now, for the first time, "the hangers" have a genuine chance of victory.

Their success would restore macabre and dread images that to a generation of Britons are the stuff of ancient history — the black cap ritually placed upon the judge's head as he pronounces sentence, the condemned man's final appeal rejected, the family and the ghoul at the prison gates on execution day.

If hanging is restored, it will be due to a harsh young breed of far-right conservatives who rode into Parliament last month on the coattails of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's general election landslide.

It would also be a surprising defeat for some of the most formidable elements of the British establishment, including the church, the judiciary and the legal profession.

Joined by prison governors and every quality national newspaper, they have argued passionately against hanging as a useless evil which stains a civilised society.

Majority in agreement

But MPs who vote "aye" know they will speak for the mass of Britons who see executions as the only answer to the rising lawlessness of both armed robbers and Irish guerrillas.

Nine out of 10 Britons, according to a poll, want child killers and terrorist killers in hang. Four in five want death for police killers or those who kill in the course of robbery.

The House of Commons vote will be a bipartisan affair in which MPs will be free to follow their consciences. Mrs. Thatcher will vote in favour but Home Secretary Leon Brittan, in charge of law enforcement, is expected to vote against.

If the hanging lobby wins, Mrs. Thatcher said recently, the government will help in drafting a bill and find parliamentary time to get it made law within 12 months.

According to press reports, the governors have prepared a public statement saying that restoration of the death penalty would make prisons more violent and "move the prison service back towards the dark ages".

Brendan O'Friel, chairman of the prison governor's branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said in a television interview Saturday that some governors might resign rather than supervise executions.

Many judges are reported to have made plain their opposition and they have been represented publicly by Lord Denning, retired head of the appeal court, who in his time sent 10 men to hang.

He has appeared repeatedly on television to declare that no civilised society could countenance the return of the noose.

The criminal bar association — whose 800 members serve both prosecution and defence in criminal trials — estimated that up to 90 per cent of them agree.

The church is even more united. Robert Runcie, archbishop of Canterbury and leader of the world's Anglicans, called hanging barbaric and said it made the judiciary "too Godlike".

The Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales joined those of northern Ireland in urging a vote against hanging.

The IRA issue

It is over Northern Ireland that conflict is sharpest. Many MPs want hanging solely for guerrillas of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) who kill in their fight to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

But the cabinet minister responsible for the province, James Prior, said Saturday the restoration of the death penalty would spur, not stem, violence there.

Mr. Prior cited special problems in Northern Ireland, where accused guerrillas do not have the right to trial by jury.

He said the IRA would regard those executed as martyrs and draw strength from the return of capital punishment.

In a letter to conservative supporters in his English constituency, Mr. Prior said the return of hanging would not deter guerrillas because "they are so committed to their cause that they are prepared to risk their lives as well as destroy the lives of others".

Even the right-wing Daily Telegraph said: "It would be seen as the introduction of a new weapon of something approaching a civil war".

Australian minister to make tour of 4 capitals

TOKYO (R) — Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden will visit Japan for four days from July 23 as part of a four-nation tour, the Australian embassy said Sunday.

Mr. Hayden, the first minister of Australia's four-month-old Labour government to visit Japan, will arrive from Washington for talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and International Trade and Industry Minister Sosuke Uno, the embassy said.

He will also visit South Korea and China before returning home on Aug. 6, it added.

Mafia escapee surrenders

MONDRAGONE, Italy (R) — A member of the Naples mafia escaped from custody and held six people hostage at a women's hairdressers for six hours before surrendering, police said Sunday.

They said that before taking refuge in the hairdressers Saturday night, Michelangelo D'agostino, 29, fought a gunbattle with police in which three people were slightly injured.

After holding up at the hairdressers, D'agostino shouted that he had fled custody to protect his parents who were threatened with death by the camorra. As police sealed off the area he demanded a bullet-proof vest and a getaway car but surrendered.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Extension

WORKING PHRASES

By Alvin Mied

ACROSS

- 1 Part of the stage
- 6 Hit hard
- 9 Rocker's job
- 10 Andean abbr.
- 12 Elec. units
- 13 Extra away
- 14 It's by
- 16 Correction
- 17 Previous to
- 22 Write in the margin
- 23 Novella's field
- 24 Decree
- 25 Succeeded
- 27 Site of the
- 28 Words of understanding
- 29 Ransom
- 30 Violent Bull

DOWN

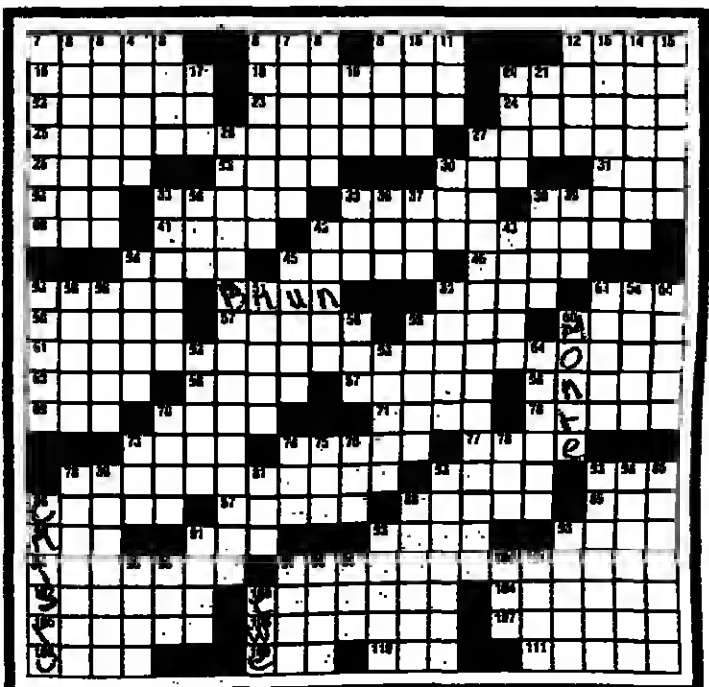
- 1 Writing
- 2 Implements
- 3 Environment
- 4 — that will be in history
- 5 Son of Adam
- 6 Disproven
- 7 Out of bed
- 8 Naturalist
- 9 John
- 10 Stopped
- 11 Wash, bigly
- 12 In the distance
- 13 Small amount
- 14 Go before
- 15 Opening word
- 17 Ruby or
- 18 R.R. stop
- 19 Ransom

ACROSS

- 31 Rotating piece
- 32 Gibbon
- 33 Occupied
- 34 Extra job
- 35 "On the Beach" author
- 36 Fairy
- 37 Pay attention
- 38 Still
- 39 Killer whale
- 40 Knicker's land
- 41 Feller's
- 42 Field
- 43 Bel
- 44 Brown Pt.
- 45 — important (qualitative)
- 46 Exclamation
- 47 A Triple Crown winner
- 48 Govt. grp.
- 49 "East —"
- 50 One part

DOWN

- 51 Act dechely
- 52 Stadium
- 53 Features
- 54 Newcomer
- 55 Hindoo god
- 56 Follow
- 57 Answered
- 58 Nonsense prof.
- 59 Elabore
- 60 Ancient pillar
- 61 Warrent officer
- 62 Teller's new address
- 63 Feed the kitty
- 64 Suffer for being foolish
- 65 Arrow poison
- 66 "Scapes for"
- 67 Govt. grp.
- 68 "East —"
- 69 Capital
- 70 — mignon



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. President of the Republic is being a happy jack-of-all-trades to just being a jack of all trades.
2. New doctor turned director stayed busy replacing casts and recasting plays.
3. Turbulent trills trembled tongue-tied teen singer.
4. After watching a long fight, tennis fan got a very crack in his neck.

CRYPTOGRAMS

L ORCHARD ZNXY YNWT SDEONIC H
TENIC RNUT RUU ZNCRNIAW, SWXYK,
EIU BEYWEYED ZEEU.

—By India M. Sperry

2 QGCDYA MESS SARGI GOOV LU YLD VHIC
QCWF, MED JLLA PRI BLEWIUD JLCBY LUG
RU DYACRU.

—By Lela H. Jones

3 LCHN CJOJHM BIL ZKXKI ZERNH EYTA
SRX MKEAORX, MKEAL YKN.

—By Earl Ireland

4 MZQMZTT ZBUR BATTINGEV RIJZERO NGV
ONAUZVI UAAJ.

—By Barbara J. Ray

